

WASHINGTON- After Senate Republicans successfully split the Labor-HHS-Education and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) called on Democratic House Leadership to work on a clean veterans and troops funding bill so it can be sent to President Bush by Veterans Day.

"Democrats should not use our veterans into a leveraging vehicle to pass pork-barrel spending," said Terry. "I have never seen such a disgraceful political ploy. Our veterans have served our country with pride and should not have to wait a single day longer to get the funding they need and deserve," said Terry.

The delay in the VA Funding Bill is costing our veterans. They are being denied:

\$4.1 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals and clinics

\$600 million for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder care, traumatic brain injury research and care

\$480 million for prosthetic research to help wounded vets retain a positive quality of life.

In June the House of Representatives passed the Veterans Affairs/Military Construction Appropriation bill that would fund our troops and veterans. This bill needs to remain separate and get to the President's desk as soon as possible. President Bush has said he will sign the bill into law. We must show our veterans and troops the gratitude and respect they deserve by ending the political games.

